

we do not admit that the temperance cause has made no progress in twenty years, we do admit that the mighty obstacle in the way has been the ease and facility with which the means of intoxication can be procured. The Gazette editor says we must have dancing halls, public reading rooms, &c., to draw those away from grog-shops who have not formed habits of intemperance, and thus by counter influences regenerate society. We maintain that the true policy is to destroy the grogshops, break up the cages of unclean birds, remove the temptation; and other places of amusement (at least as elevating as dancing halls and card-rooms) will be abundant and in demand. While these remain, they degrade the mind, pollute the affections, and destroy all taste for refined and elevating and innocent pleasures and amusements. The song of the bacchanal, the vulgar jest, the profane babbling, is music to the ear, and entrances the soul of the frequenter of the coffee-house, and render other and innocent amusements insipid. Our reform has halted and limped along, because we have led those who were convinced that we were right, into temptation. We have not destroyed the idol temples, and demolished the graven images.

Break up the drinking saloons, and there would not be so severe a tax upon the "courage, fortitude and resolution" of the citizen.

Even such a devil's half way house as the Gazette proposes we should establish would be very poorly patronized as long as the liquor houses remain undisturbed.

What, then, is the substance of the great remedy which for twenty years has been overlooked by reformers, and which it was left for the Gazette editor to discover and publish to the world? The two articles put together contain the great specific. Make Catawba wine abundant, and establish card-rooms and dancing halls, where the fruits of the vintage would flow like water, and the black stream of intemperance will disappear. Dr. Beecher and all the other learned and eloquent Divines have all been on the wrong road. They should have commenced by urging their Christian friends to plant vineyards, and build dancing houses; and ere this, something would have been done instead of getting up their mere "clap-trap," which has accomplished nothing!

We hope the Gazette editor will give more of the details of his plan in succeeding members.

New York Tribune.

This world-renowned Journal comes to us greatly enlarged, we will not say improved, for in our judgment that is impossible. Without any reference to the political character of the Tribune, it is the best family newspaper in the world. Those who conduct the editorial department write fearlessly and plainly on slavery, temperance and all other subjects. It is a perfect encyclopedia of intelligence on every topic of public interest.

Several important articles are unavoidably crowded out.

The Mysteries of the Wine Trade.

An article on this subject of great interest may be found in the *Living Age*, No. 460, copied from Tait's Magazine, England. We advise all our readers who can procure it, to read, mark, digest, and remember this revelation, under the authority of the British Parliament, of the frauds, iniquities, lies, and mischiefs of this trade. Alcohol is bad enough in all conscience, but when you have added to the big devil a whole lot of little ones, each one apt and on the alert to do his best to set the body on fire, disorder its healthful action, and plant disease in the flesh, and delirium in the intellect, it is too bad, it is being over zealous in the cause of the Evil One.

The select committee of Parliament on Import Duties on Wines, which sat last session, have given us the following interesting and valuable facts.

It appears that the importation of Wines into England has very much decreased, but this has not been owing to a less quantity being drunk, but to the domestic manufacture and adulteration. England with a population of about five millions, imported 90,000 pipes of all kinds of wines, 40,000 being French wines, in 1669, with a duty of four pence on a gallon; but England in 1851 with a population of 27,000,000, imported only 56,000 pipes, of which only four thousand were French wines, with a duty of five shillings nine pence per gallon! The kingdom has quintupled her inhabitants, increased her duty sixteen fold, and diminished her imports about two-thirds. But this unfortunately has not been owing to any great prevalence of temperate habits, for the temperance reformation has as yet scarcely begun in England, but to the increased manufacture of domestic distilled and fermented liquors of every description. The effect of high duties has been very adverse to temperance. It has shut out the lighter wines, and created distilleries. It has encouraged the strongest kind of wines, because if wine is dear, the kind must be obtained that will go farthest, and of which the least can be drunk at a time.

As to the different kinds of wine, it appears by the testimony of witnesses, summoned before the above committee, that by the present Portuguese law, no unsophisticated Port wine is allowed to reach England. All is doctored. "The Portuguese government consider literally," says one witness, "that Port wines are not known or drunk as Port wines, but really are used simply for making up artificial wines in England." To show the extent of the manufacture, though only 20,000 pipes of port are imported, 60,000 Pipes of Port, so called, are consumed.

Sherry is even worse than Port. Dr. Gorman, a resident in Spain for many years, testifies that no natural Sherry goes to England. They put in as much as six or eight gallons of Brandy to a butt of wine of 108 imperial gallons. They adulterate it because the English demand is always for strong wines, to suit an artificial taste.

Madeira is adulterated, as Mr. Oliveira, a member of Parliament, testifies, by being subjected to an artificial heat to change new wines into old ones, and then mixed with other wines in addition.

Burgundy, according to M. Maire, a French wine-grower and shipper, is adulterated by sugar, by increased fermentation, until this wine has lost its name and character, and consumption.

Thus what is drunk in old England is not wine, but wine and brandy; adulterated wines, spirituous liquors under costly and genteel names.

Then there is another curious process for "vatting" or blending wines, i. e., several different kinds are put into the same vat and the mixture is sold as Port or Sherry, according to its taste!

"The following is a specimen of what may be called the London Dock Port wine, vintage of 1850."

| | |
|--------------------------|---------------------------|
| 963 | gallons of Sicilian wine, |
| 1766 1/2 | " " French " |
| 2604 | " " Spanish " |
| 1419 | " " Port " |
| 394 | " " Cape " |
| 1620 | " " Mixed " |
| 205 | " " Brandy " |
| 8,971 1/2 | gallons in one vat. |
| Here is another mixture. | |
| 89 | gallons Italian wine, |
| 28 | " " Port " |
| 557 | " " French " |
| 62 | " " Madeira " |
| 53 | " " Marsala " |
| 14 | " " Unenumerated " |
| 371 | " " Spanish " |
| 448 | " " Canary " |
| 44 | " " Brandy " |
| 1666 | gallons in one vat. |

British wine manufacturing is of two kinds; one domestic cordials, such as ginger, current, raspberry, cowslip, and elder wines, and the other of imitation of foreign wines, especially of Sherry, Port and Champagne. One witness stated that one third of his sales consisted of these imitated wines. He sold them as British wines, but the retailer did not probably make the distinction.

The conclusions which the writer comes to from all the Parliamentary testimony is:

1. That nearly all the wines imported into England, are previously adulterated with brandy, or other deleterious infusions.
2. That most of the liquors sold and consumed as Port and Sherry are spurious mixtures of various wines and spirits, or else are wholly made in Great Britain.
3. That the sole cause of these adulterations and frauds, is to be found in the high import duty on wines.

We should agree to all but the third conclusion. The truth is, both the English and American people lead a high, active, excited life. They are not content, and would not be under any circumstances, with the dish-water wines of France, and Italy. They crave the real stingo. They want it even in their lighter drinks as well as their stronger. The British Lion and the American Eagle have a strong animality, and they cry for the most stimulating food and drink. Then they drive commercial affairs to such an extent that they do not stick at these frauds so much as even

worse nations morally would do, not being so hacknayed in the callous ways of the world. As to the native wine question so much talked of here at the West, we have no faith at all, that the turning of the fair hills of Ohio, Indiana, and Kentucky, into vineyards, would ever make us a temperance people.

In the first place, these wines will always be too dear to be the common drink of the people. The population increases faster than the wine manufacture. Then in the next place, the question has already been tested in New England and New York, and failed. Cider is the native wine of those regions, and the use of cider did not increase, but destroyed sobriety in the habits of the people; and now that temperance, Maine Liquor Laws, and other happy notions have taken root there, cider has fallen off proportionally, and is scarcely used by whole districts at all, except for sauce, vinegar, &c. Then you cannot diet off or cool down our drinkers of whisky, brandy and gin, all cheaper articles than wine, and induce them to be satisfied with wishy-washy weak wines. They are too far gone for that. Neither can you educate another generation for such a moderate beverage. If you bring them up on wine, when they are older they will be ripe for the stronger drinks, the appetite being formed, the fire kindled, and the fuel abundantly supplied to keep it going. Again, an important consideration is that wine countries are brandy countries, because brandy is made from the refuse, lees, and remains of wine. Just as fast as you increase the vineyards, you increase the brandy distilleries, and swell their red streams of fire and destruction. The friends of Temperance have reason to say, then, save us from the advocates of native wines, as our real enemies; perhaps unconsciously, for they foist in a branch of culture, manufacture, trade, and investment of capital, and habit and interest of life, which will, it is certain, prove a deadly enemy, though coming in under the guise of a friend. We must keep our eyes open. All that is said of the adulteration of British wines, is equally true of American wines. We have no pure wines in this country, i. e., very few. The frauds of commerce are deep and wide as the Atlantic ocean on this subject. Get the chemist to analyze your bottle of wine, which you drink, self-indulgent, *bon vivant*, with so much gusto, and you will learn what it is made of. A chemist who examined two hundred different specimens said, he found but one that was made of the juice of the grape. The same frauds are already creeping into the manufacture of the native wines of the West. Dare these manufacturers tell the whole process? They would not. Dare they submit what they call the pure juice of the grape to the chemist's searching analysis? They dare not. Much is perhaps pure, but much is not. And let the native wine mania spread, and get to be a hobby of the West, and fraud and adulteration would increase a hundred fold; brandy would keep pace with wine, and the young blood of the rising race would all be bitten and poisoned with that fire which is communicated by "the worm of the still."